FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 SEPTEMBER 1980

Iran

In an interview with AFP, former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh has "categorically" denied a report published in the Montreal LA PRESSE that he had "secret contacts" with the State Department over the hostage issue. He declared that "no contacts are necessary in the current circumstances," as the Majlis' decision on the hostages must be made before any further moves are undertaken. He said that the United States should not "decide or ask for anything" before the Majlis adopts an "official position" and that his letter to the Majlis and other statements he has made should provide a "basis of discussion," particularly concerning "technical details" and the conditions for the hostages' release. Qotbzadeh also stated that "direct negotiations" between the United States and Iran are the "best" way to settle the problem and that the break in relations between the two countries does not present a "major obstacle" to the opening of such talks.

AFP reported that two Majlis deputies close to Ayatollah Khomeyni--Mussavi Kho'ini and Ayatollah Bahovaddin Mahallati--have proposed that the Majlis decide whether it is going to take a hard line on the hostage issue before charging the special committee with its duties, for the choice of committee members should reflect what line will be followed. The news agency said four different proposals for determining the composition of the committee will be discussed at the next session of the Majlis.

Arab Unity

Iraq has been quick to confirm the authenticity of a letter President Saddam Husayn sent to the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN in which he affirmed the "unionist will of the Iraqi masses toward Syria." Baghdad radio's Voice of the Arab Masses carried the text of the letter on 16 September, the same day it appeared in AL-WATAN. Husayn stated that the Ba'th Party views Arab unity not only as a "hope or dream," but as a "basic condition and necessity" in defending the Arab nation. He declared that Iraq is "pained" that relations with Syria "are not proceeding on the road to unity," and he said that while the will of the masses constitutes unity's "historical and primary justification," there must also be a "firm and serious political will" for unity that is shared by the leaderships of the two countries. The president stated that Iraq has nothing to fear from unity because its internal political situation has been consolidated, its resources developed and its international role intensified. He said in this regard that Iraq has more "potential" than Syria, as it has a larger land area and population, more resources and a stronger army and that, therefore, its leadership "does not harbor any apprehensions" over establishing unity with a "fraternal state" less endowed in these respects. He admitted that such unity would also be to Iraq's benefit, since it would "provide it with better opportunities for defense and confrontation" in the current situation, more sea outlets and other advantages. Nevertheless, Saddam Husayn made no direct initiative to Syria to establish a forum for improving relations between the two countries, which have seriously deteriorated since the expulsion of diplomatic personnel from Damascus and Baghdad last month, nor did he comment on Iraq's attitude toward possible accession to the Syria-Libya unified state.

In a speech carried by Tripoli radio, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pledged to make Libyan-Syrian unity a "reality" and warned that henceforth Arab regionalism will become a "danger" to and constitute no "protection" for those who hide behind it. Al-Qadhdhafi said that with the implementation of this unity, "confrontation with the United States and Israel will be inevitable." He reminded his audience that Libya is the "closest place that can be subjected to U.S. aggression" and challenged the United States by saying: "We want the United States to encroach into Libyan waters and airspace, because we will fight it; we will fight it face to face; we will sacrifice."

Israel

According to Jerusalem radio, the ministerial autonomy team "believes" that the document submitted by Ambassador Sol Linowitz containing a proposal for the framework of autonomy has "certain points that contradict" the Camp David accords. The team will meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 17 September to discuss the U.S. document.

OPEC Conference

Vienna radio reported that the OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna were unable to agree on a new price formula and have thus extended their 2-day conference for another day.

Turkey

Ankara radio carried a speech by Gen Kenan Evren, president of the National Security Council, at a press conference on 16 September in which he further detailed the reasons behind the military takeover of the country. Evren said that Turkish democracy is not "equipped with laws to protect itself" and that as a result the democratic rights of those who wish to "destroy" the system are considered at the expense of the rights of the "virtuous citizen." According to Evren, the country's "constitutional organizations" are "blind" through "permissiveness and tolerance" to attempts to divert Turkish democracy from Ataturk's reforms. He said that Turkish schools at all levels, instead of implementing a "Kemalist education," have disseminated "leftist, rightist or reactionary ideas" and that the "right of association" had been misused, resulting in the transformation of thousands of "associations" into "political organizations" whose aim is to destroy the system. For these reasons, among others, Evren explained, the democratic system in Turkey had been "derailed" and the Turkish armed forces, after issuing several "warnings" that were not heeded, "fulfilled their legal tasks, the wish of the people and the orders of Ataturk." Evren went on to say that had the armed forces not intervened, the situation would have deteriorated to the extent that within a few years "secret and treacherous forces" would have penetrated the armed forces as well and begun dividing them. He went on to say that an "authorized," responsible, viable and adequate" democratic order will be instituted in the country in a "short time," a council of ministers will be formed within a week, a provisional constitution prepared and a constituent assembly formed.

Discussing foreign policy, Evren gave assurances that the new government will honor all Turkey's existing political, economic and security agreements and that "efforts to develop bilateral relations with the United States," the EEC and other Western countries will continue. He also affirmed that the Soviet Union "occupies a special place among our neighbors." Evren stated that all problems with Greece will be solved in a "just manner" through good will and constructive bilateral negotiations and that his government hopes that the Cyprus issue can be resolved through intercommunal talks.

In a question-and-answer session held after the press conference, reported by Ankara radio, Evren insisted that the United States had not been forewarned of the military takeover. He explained that U.S. AID personnel might have "suspected" the impending events since on the night of 11 September armored units had been positioned near the AID mission. He said the Americans had asked about the presence of these units and had been told they were part of a NATO maneuver that had started that day. "Otherwise," Evren affirmed, "they were not informed of the operation before it was launched."

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KLIBI SPEAKS OF ARAB UNITY, SOLIDARITY IN TUNIS

LD161207 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 80 p 1

[ASH-AL-ASWAT bureau report: "Klibi Calls for Alertness: 'Israel Is Preparing To Attack Lebanon and the Resistance'"]

[Excerpts] Tunis--Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has appealed to the United Nations and the peace- and justice-loving states to be alert and to warn the Zionist government of the consequences of any action it might commit against the PLO forces or against Lebanon's territorial integrity, whether directly or through agents who have linked their fate with the Zionist interests, or against any Arab state in the area.

The Arab League secretary general was speaking at the joint extraordinary meeting of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Arab Monetary Fund which began in Tunis yesterday. He said that Begin had stated 2 days ago that he had definite information that Syria is preparing to launch an attack on Israel in the next few days. The secretary general added: We are aware of and have experienced this method quite often. Whenever Israel decides to launch an aggression against the Arab countries, it declares with a sort of pretentious haste and alarm that the Arab side is preparing to attack it.

The secretary general said that the Zionist state will be responsible for any clash. He added: We are now in dire need of solidarity and genuine cohesion vis-a-vis the challenges confronting us. In order to be free in making our own decision and be able to implement this decision in the service of our pan-Arab interests, we must consolidate our unity and strengthen our relations on the basis of integration among our countries. He said: The Arab countries have separately made enormous efforts to develop their private resources and promote their social and economic conditions on a regional and not a pan-Arab basis. This led to disparity in the rates of regional development and weakened the potential for mobilizing Arab capabilities to strengthen pan-Arab security and social stability and push the development process forward.

The secretary general emphasized that the enormity of the Arab development requirements necessitates joint Arab efforts and political will based on absolute conviction in the credibility of integrated joint action. He pointed out that the role of the two funds becomes more important in view of the new conditions of the [next] decade of Arab development and the national plan for joint Arab economic action. He added that the additional financial needs of the financially incapable Arab countries vary between $1 billion and $1.5 billion annually. In our opinion this necessitates a more effective contribution by the two funds.

KLIBI EXPLAINS MEANING OF FAHD'S CALL FOR JIHAD

LD151114 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1035 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Sep (SPA)--Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has expressed appreciation for the jihad call made by Saudi Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince Fahd, which met with unanimous response from all Arabs and Muslims.

But, he said in an interview with the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH published here today, jihad does not mean war. Jihad centers on two meanings: depth of determination, and sincerity of the will to struggle using all capabilities and resources, foremost of which are political, diplomatic, informational, economic and, finally, military capabilities.

He said that the Arab nation considers the present American stand which constantly appeases Israel as a hostile stand which cannot be interpreted other than as support for Israel's unjust actions and crimes against the Arabs.

Klibi affirmed that the Arab countries refuse to allow the Arab region to be plunged into international tensions. This fact should be further consolidated in future, so that the area will not become hostage to those tensions or foreign interests, be they Eastern or Western.

Klibi also affirmed his rejection of foreign bases in the Arab countries, because this is what the Arab interest demands. The presence of one kind of foreign base, he said, will become a cause for the establishment of another kind of opposing foreign base, thus drawing the area into international conflicts.

ISLAMIC LEADER URGES MEETING ON IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

BK170134 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Islamic Council Secretary General Salem Azzam has proposed convening an extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers to review the Iran-Iraq dispute. He has sent a telegram from London to Agha Shahi, the chairman of Islamic foreign ministers' conference, urging him to convene a meeting to discuss this issue immediately.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT DISCUSSES AL-HADATH INCIDENTS

NC130845 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0745 GMT 13 Sep 80

[Text] The central political council of the national and progressive forces in Lebanon held its weekly meeting yesterday. The political council pondered upon the armed clashes that took place in the Al-Hadath area between the army and the Phalangist gangs and pointed out the serious dimensions of these clashes. It asserted that the Phalangists command is now pursuing a policy of speeding the creation of a constitutional vacuum in the country preliminary to assuming power.

The central political council issued a statement saying that the battle for the Al-Hadath area, which the Phalangist Party has resumed, is actually a battle for control of B'abda [the presidential palace locality]. The waging of this battle at this particular time is definite proof that the Phalangist militias, under the command of Bashir al-Jumayyil, are now knocking on the doors of the last position of the legal authority--the headquarters of the president of the republic--in order to besiege it before fully controlling it.

After noting the serious dimensions of the continuing clashes in Al-Hadath, the statement called on the legal authority to remain firm; to deploy its army in order to confront the Phalangist militias; and to defend Al-Hadath, B'abda Palace and all the roads leading to it from the attempted violations by Bashir al-Jumayyil.

The national movement warned the legal authority and the army command against accepting a security settlement whereby joint committees or patrols of the army and armed Phalangists would be formed. The national movement considered the authority's course of action in this respect as one of the main conditions which would influence the general attitude toward the army and the process of rebuilding it on a balanced national bases in order to enable it to carry out its role in defending the country's borders from the Zionist danger and of safeguarding its unity internally.

After stressing the importance of a direct military confrontation with the Phalangist militias in Al-Habath and elsewhere, the national movement said: In essence the battle is political and rotates around a basic question--who will be in control in the end? Will it be the legal authority or the Phalangist statelet?

The central political council also pondered upon the cabinet crisis. It demanded a quick resolution on forming a new government that will shoulder its full responsibilities and will include those who actually approve the principles of the national accord.

AS-SABAH: THIRD WORLD NEEDS MORE POWER IN MONETARY SYSTEMS

LD161337 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 80 p 1

[Anne Whitehouse report: "Two Days Before OPEC Conference, As-Sabah Says: World Monetary System Must Be Changed"]

[Text] Oxford--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah has called for a change in the world monetary system in a manner that would give the Third World countries greater power in the IMF and the World Bank.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said at a symposium at Oxford University the other night [11 September] that both of these international organizations have failed to respond to the needs and the requirements of the developing countries. He said that the developing countries, including the oil countries, have paid half the funds necessary for the aid program set up by the organization several years ago and yet most of the funds have gone to the industrial states. He added that OPEC member states provided 40 percent of the aid for developing countries during the period 1974 to 1977.

Shaykh as-Sabah said: "The north (the rich countries) is still interested in energy only and is not prepared to deal with development problems in the south (the developing countries) in any significant manner." The economic problems of the south are more urgent and persistent than the question of energy, he added. Shaykh as-Sabah said that in the past the rich countries have tried, whether at the United Nations or in its specialized agencies, to drive a wedge between the oil countries and the developing countries that have no oil of their own.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said that "the gap between the countries of north and south has widened in the last few years because the policy of protectionism and isolationism on the part of the northern countries has once again emerged under the guise of economic and political realism."

The Kuwaiti minister said that the most the OPEC countries can seriously offer is to guarantee oil supplies and to provide information on expected price changes. He said that the question of oil prices is not subject to negotiation with the north.

Shaykh as-Sabah's statement comes at a time when preparations are underway for the annual conference of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington scheduled for later this month.

Shaykh as-Sabah said that the developing countries, including the oil countries, must obtain greater voting power in the two organizations. This proposal, if carried out, would lead to a reduction in the domination of the United States and its industrial partners in the IMF and the World Bank.

The OPEC long-term strategy committee met in London in the presence of a number of oil ministers preparatory to the conference to be held in Vienna Monday at which the agenda for the OPEC summit economic conference to be held in Baghdad in November will be drawn up.

BAHRAIN

PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR UK ON 3-DAY VISIT

JN150820 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0725 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Manama, 15 Sep (GNA)--The Bahraini prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, left Manama today for the United Kingdom on a 3-day official visit.

His highness is accompanied on this visit by Foreign Minister Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Information Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Muhammad al-Qasim, several aides and a press delegation.

PRIME MINISTER PRESIDES OVER CABINET MEETING

GF141936 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah presided over an ordinary Cabinet meeting at Government House today. In a statement after the meeting the acting minister of state for cabinet affairs said: The Cabinet reviewed the memorandum of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture on plans to develop Bahrain's agriculture sector from 1981 to 1986.

The Cabinet heard a report by the minister of development and industry on the establishment of a limited shareholding company for automatic reservations for Arab airlines that are members of the Arab Air Transport Federation and whose headquarters will be in Bahrain. Out of its desire to provide speedy and accurate service to passengers, the Cabinet approved the establishment of the company.

The Cabinet also heard a report by the minister of health on the situation in the country, particularly the pollution of Bahrain's sea water. The Cabinet was satisfied that the sea water is free of oil thanks to the intensive efforts of all parties concerned. The Cabinet views with great satisfaction the tireless efforts that are continuing to clean the coasts and beaches of oil so that they can be fit for citizens' use and also the efforts to clean up fishing areas.

The Cabinet then heard a report by the minister of foreign affairs on the visit by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. During his visit a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and the Arab situation as well as the international situation in general was made.

The Cabinet also approved a visit by the minister of development and industry to the fraternal Republic of Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi industry minister.

At the end of its meeting the Cabinet reviewed the remaining topics on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions.

IRAQI ENVOY ARRIVES ON SHORT VISIT 17 SEP

JN170840 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0805 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Manama 17 Sep (GNA)--Hikmat Ibrahim al-'Azzawi, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, arrived in Manama this morning on a short visit of several hours to the State of Bahrain. He was welcomed on arrival by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior and acting minister of information.

The Iraqi envoy is expected to meet with the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah, later today.

KUWAIT

AL-WATAN: U.S. TROOPS TO OMAN FOR POSSIBLE IRAN RESCUE

LD170904 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0756 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (KUNA)--A Kuwaiti paper today reports that the American Defense Department ordered its units to head for a military base in the Sultanate of Oman in a move which involves the possibility of military intervention in Iran to rescue the American hostages held there for over 10 months. In its report AL-WATAN attributes to sources described as widely informed as not having mentioned the number of American military units or the launching point, however, it says they will head for the Omani Masirah base in which the United States has obtained military facilities according to a treaty signed with the Sultanate of Oman earlier this year.

It adds that observers have attributed the new American move to the possibility of the American administration resorting to a new military mission against Iran if the parliamentary committee, decided upon yesterday by the Iranian Shurah Council to look into the case of the 52 hostages and their release, does not bring results. The United States, in a previous military attempt last April, failed to release the hostages.

ITALIAN PRESIDENT DEPARTS 17 SEP FOR PRC

LD170910 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0707 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (KUNA)--The president of Italy, Alessandro Pertini, left here today after spending the night in Kuwait on his way to China. Last night President Pertini had a meeting with the Viceroy and Crown Prince of Kuwait Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sahab and, according to Kuwaiti officials, reviewed with him bilateral relations between the two countries.

IRAQI ENVOY ARRIVES ON TOUR OF GULF

LD170844 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0711 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (KUNA)--Tahir at-Tawfiq, a senior Iraqi official who is a member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of industry, today suddenly arrived here and immediately headed for a meeting with the viceroy and crown prince of Kuwait, Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah as-Sahah.

Informed sources stated that At-Tawfiq carries a message from President Saddam Husayn regarding developments in the gulf [words indistinct] betwen Iraq and Iran. They added that Kuwait is the first stop in a rapid tour which the Iraqi minister intends to carry out in the countries of the Arabian Gulf. They give no other details about his mission.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD GIVES VIEWS ON OPEC TOPICS

LD170820 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Jidda, 17 Sep (SPA)--His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, viceroy, has stressed that the OPEC countries are capable of planning their path according to their national interests.

In an interview to AL-BILAD, published today, his royal highness said that whatever is adopted by the collective meeting of the foreign, petroleum and finance ministers of the OPEC countries in Vienna will be submitted to a summit conference of the organization to be held in Baghdad to adopt a unified stand. In reply to a question about the extent of foreign pressures on the OPEC decisions at this time in particular, he explained that what we decide is our own affair. He added that no one can impose on the Kingdom any particular policy and what the Kingdom decides upon is subject first and foremost to what our national interests dictate.

His royal highness the viceroy and crown prince expressed the hope that the Vienna OPEC conference will adopt unified stands to realize the interests of the nation and will take into consideration the situation of the international community and its natural needs for this petroleum resource.

In reply to a question about the recently announced Syrian-Libyan unity his royal highness stated that we have made our stand public and, as everyone knows, this stand is one of support. Prince Fahd stressed that the Arab summit conference in Amman will be held at the scheduled time and that there are no plans to change the scheduled time.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES MOROCCAN MILITARY DELEGATION

LD161858 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] At-Ta'if, 16 Sep (SPA)--Viceroy and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office at the royal court in At-Ta'if at 1915 today the Moroccan military delegation led by Col (Mohammed Kabbaj), inspector of the Royal Moroccan Air Force. His highness received from (Kabbaj) two letters from King Hassan II, the sovereign of Morocco, one addressed to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the other to his highness. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Uthman al-Humayd, assistant minister of defense and aviation, and by the Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom, Mohamed Ben Larbe El Alami.

UAE

SENEGALESE PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR MOROCCO 17 SEP

JN170834 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Sep (GNA)--Senegalese President Leopold-Sedar Senghor left Abu Dhabi for Rabat this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to the UAE.

The Senegalese president was seen off by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and senior state officials.

During the visit the Senegalese and UAE presidents held talks on means of promoting bilateral relations and on current Arab and international issues.

'ALI MAKES STATEMENT ON UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

NC261843 Cairo MENA in English 1820 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Washington, 16 Sep (MENA)--Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed today that Egyptian efforts for the establishment of peace in the Middle East "have and always shall support the role of the United Nations, its charter and resolutions".

The deputy prime minister also stressed in his statements here on the occasion of the opening of the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly that the Camp David framework was a practical translation of UN resolutions on the Middle East as far as the establishment of a comprehensive just and permanent peace guaranteeing the rights of the states in the region to sovereignty, independence and peaceful existence within secure and recognised frontiers was concerned. This included the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to decide their future.

The Egyptian foreign minister expressed hope that the present session would orient the organisation towards the right course as regards seeking solutions for world problems that have an impact on international peace and security and affect the relationship between industrial and developing states.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister pointed out that the armament race, which jeopardised world peace and reflected negative consequences on international economic relations, was among the major and urgent problems of our day that required active participation on the part of the United Nations for its solution.

He also referred to the sums spent on armaments throughout the world and said that they annually exceeded one billion [as received] dollars, which resulted in an increased rate of inflation and in the reduction of development programmes and the dwindling of the economic and technical assistance which industrial states were capable of offering developing nations.

He noted that if a small ratio of what was annually spent on armament were allocated to the solution of current economic problems, that would have led to increased opportunities for prosperity and stability in the world.

'Ali urged non-aligned countries to assume a positive role in curbing the policies of polarisation practiced by big powers. He pointed out that they would have a positive result as regards the role of the international organisation in confronting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and in resisting policies of racial discrimination, South Africa's occupation of Namibia, the Middle East issue and other problems requiring urgent solution that would ensure the rights of peoples and their independence.

EGYPT SEEKS LEGAL OPINION ON WHO TRANSFER FROM ALEXANDRIA

NC170820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR today reports that during his visit to Geneva, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali summoned Egyptian Ambassador in Vienna Ahmad 'Uthman to discuss the plea before the International Court of Justice requesting an advisory opinion regarding the transfer of the World Health Organization's eastern Mediterranean office from Alexandria to a certain Arab capital.

The paper says that Egyptian diplomacy succeeded in preventing the adoption of an illegal decision before obtaining a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on all the agreements which have been ratified between Egypt and the WHO [regional office] in Alexandria.

The paper says that Egypt has prepared a memo which the Egyptian ambassador in The Hague presented to the International Court of Justice together with several official documents of more than 200 pages.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MUHYI AD-DIN MEETS BEN-ELISAR

NC161205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1151 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din today received Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Eliyahu Ben-Elisar.

OFFICIAL DISCLAIMS INTENTION TO SEPARATE GAZA, WEST BANK

TA161725 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Sep 80 p 2

[Military correspondent 'Oded Zaray report: "Director General of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry: We have no intention of separating the Gaza Strip and the West Bank"]

[Excerpt] Egypt is faithful to the idea of the unity of the Palestinian land and this is its guiding principle in the autonomy negotiations in that Egypt has no intention of separating the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This was stated by the director general of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Dr Usamah al-Baz, who is also a member of the negotiating committee, in an interview to the "Monte Carlo Radio" last night.

Dr al-Baz noted that unilateral Israeli moves cancelling the military government and withdrawing from Gaza would only improve the situation and the general atmosphere, and would alleviate the pangs of the Palestinians. However, he added, Egypt wants to achieve a comprehensive agreement about Gaza and the West Bank, which would bring about the withdrawal of an Israeli military and civilian administration, and a transfer of the power to a Palestinian government.

According to the station correspondent in Cairo, the issue of implementing the autonomy in Gaza first did not come up in the recent talks Ambassador Sol Linowitz conducted in the region, nor was it mentioned in the memorandum of understanding he brought with him.

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR ARAB COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY

LD130842 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0732 GMT 13 Sep 80

'Text] Kuwait 13 Sep (KUNA)--Chairman of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority Dr Ibrahim Hammudah said in an interview published here today that Arab countries are capable of producing an nuclear bomb provided they worked collectively and wished to do so. He told AL-QABAS that this also requires the bringing together of material, technical and scientific resources and comprehensively collating them, together with Arab scientists and their specialization in nuclear work.

Dr Hammudah called for Arab cooperation in the nuclear field because "the future is with nuclear energy" which will be the main alternative to oil if not its major competitor. He said the building nuclear powerplants is very necessary because "from the economic aspect, building them equals the cost of producing energy by traditional plants which depend on oil. Moreover, they will be cheaper due to the continuing increase in oil prices."

He said it is difficult to be certain whether Israel had a nuclear bomb unless it carries out a nuclear test "and as long as no nuclear test has been carried out the existence of nuclear weapons becomes mere speculation." However, the Egyptian scientist added, enough information is available about a nuclear reactor which Israel owns "which shows that it is possible to produce the necessary material for an atomic bomb."

MILITARY PARADE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER WAR ANNIVERSARY

NC170753 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)--The Egyptian armed forces will celebrate the seventh anniversary of the glorious October victories by staging a big military parade in Nasr city on the morning of 6 October.

In reporting this today, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that the parade will include air defense units, modern U.S. rockets and some reconnaissance equipment which Egypt received from the first and second loan granted by the U.S. The parade will also include a large number of U.S. Phantom planes and French Mirages as well as Soviet MIG's and Sokhoi planes which have been reconditioned and provided with spare parts by the Egyptian war industries. Also appearing in the parade will be: Chinese MIG's, U.S. C-130 personnel transport planes, British, French and Soviet helicopters, armored units and U.S. combat vehicles, as well as some modern communication and signal equipment.

The naval forces parade will include some modern and developed rocket and torpedo gunboats.

AS-SADAT SIGNS DECREE FORMING WORKING COMMITTEE

NC17085 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has issued a republican decree forming a provisional working committee under the chairmanship of presidential assistant Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. The committee, which includes 25 members, will carry out various research and studies necessary for the formation of an advisory body to the president of the republic. It will draw up the system of forming the body, define its jurisdictions and functions and the main files toward which university professors and various research and staff experts could contribute with their views and advice.

President as-Sadat yesterday received Engineer Sayyid Mar'i who presented to the president the draft formation of the committee. The president approved the formation and signed the decree.

AS-SADAT TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONGRESS

NC160722 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Sep 80

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports on its front page that it has been finally decided that the National Democratic Party [NDP] congress will begin on 29 September and continue for 3 days. The paper points out that President Anwar as-Sadat will attend the opening session and will speak at the closing session on 1 October. Vice President Husni Mubarak will, in his capacity as party secretary general, chair the congress.

MILITARY FORCES LIBERATE BORDER POSTS 16 SEP

JN161957 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] A military spokesman stated the following this evening:

1. The ignorant racist Iranian regime continued its hostile activities against our frontline positions and border posts last night and this evening. Apparently, this regime has not learned its lesson from our armed forces' blows in recent days.

At 2210 Yesterday the enemy opened artillery fire on our frontline positions in Wasit.

At 0830 today the enemy opened fire on the Al-Buwwarin and Ash-Shahlah posts in the Basra sector. Fire continued intermittently during the day.

At 0900 today the enemy's artillery shelled the liberated Zayn al-Qaws will in the Diyala sector and the (Abu-Gharab) area in the Al-'Amarah sector. Our forces returned the fire.

At 1130 today enemy fighter planes penetrated the border at Khaniqin sector. At 1500 today enemy planes penetrated the border in the Al-'Imarah sector. At 1506 enemy planes penetrated the border at Khaniqin sector. Our fighter planes intercepted the enemy planes, forcing them to flee.

At 1500 today the enemy artillery shelled Qasabat Mandali. Our forces returned the fire, shelling the Iranian (Qasabat Thumar).

2. In implementing the historic decision of our leadership to restore every Iraqi location, at 1200 today our forces waged a swift and crucial battle against the racist Persian forces at the Misan sector. Our forces liberated the area, which had been usurped by Iran during the past reactionary eras, following the defeat of the enemy forces and their retreat into Iran.

The following posts have been restored: (At-Tawus), (Ar-Rashidah), (As-Safariyah al-Jadid) and (As-Safariyah al-Qadi m). The Iraqi flag has been hoisted forever on these posts.

Our losses: one wounded.

The losses of the enemy forces are: the destruction of an antitank rocket battery , two military vehicles and an antitank gun; the capture of our Iranian posts; and the capture of a large quantity of light arms and various equipment.

At 1400 today our brave forces restored the (Hindara) post in Mandali sector in a swift and crucial battle against the enemy forces, who took to their heels in the face of the bravery and heroism of our forces. It is to be recalled that this post had been usurped by Iran in the past. One of the attackers was taken prisoner and a large quantity of military equipment was seized.

3. It was reported to us that the Iranian forces' losses yesterday in the (Thumar) sector alone were: four tanks destroyed, one vehicle burned and one post destroyed.

NAVAL OFFICER REPORTS ON SKIRMISHES WITH IRAN

JN170844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 17 Sep (INA)--An Iraqi military official has refuted reports recently disseminated by foreign news agencies saying that naval battles have erupted between the Iraqi and Iranian forces.

The naval staff brigadier general and deputy commander of the naval forces and coastal defense has said that skirmishes took place in the region only on 11 and 15 September.

The aggression was initiated by the Iranian side. He pointed out that the situation on 11 September required a firm and strong reply to silence the sources of enemy fire directed against our naval military units in the area of Ash-Shahlah and Al-Buwwarin. Our forces hit and sank two enemy gunboats passing in the area. On Monday [15 September], Iranian gunboats opened fire at our border posts, necessitating a firm reply. The enemy suffered heavy losses.

The naval staff brigadier general and deputy commander of the naval forces and coastal defense stressed that Iraq does not have an aggressive tendency. However, it is determined to defend Iraqi soil and the Iraqi people's rights.

In a statement to the INA press team, the Iraqi military official added that Iraq well knows the importance of the Arab gulf area from a strategic, military and economic viewpoint. It also realizes that an escalation of the military situation is not in the interest of the region in general. Still, we confirm our ability to reply to any attempt by the racist Persian regime to escalate the situation in a way that serves colonialist designs and U.S. threats of military intervention in the region, under the pretext of protecting its interests.

TEXT OF SADDAM HUSAYN MESSAGE TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN161908 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 80

["Text" of message sent by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN--date not given]

[Text] Brother Najib 'Abd al-Hadi, AL-WATAN newspaper, Kuwait.

I have read what you wrote in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN on 3 September and I appreciate what you said about me. I pray God to support me and my comrade in carrying out our responsibilities and in serving the nation to realize our lofty pan-Arab aims. I also highly appreciate the pan-Arab motives which made you write your article about the solidarity of the Arabs and their unity before their enemies in confronting the plots facing the nation. I also appreciate your dealing with Iraqi-Syrian relations. I would like to explain to you in this letter my viewpoints on the issues discussed in your article. I do so in my capacity as an Arab citizen and an Iraqi official.

We in the Ba'th Party do not consider unity as just a hope or a dream but as a basic condition and necessity to safeguard the freedom and independence of the Arab nation and enable it to achieve strength and progress so as to protect itself against aggression and intimidation and to contribute positively to human existence as it has during many glorious periods of history. Speaking from long experience and responsibility and not merely from ideological motivation, I assure you that no matter how advanced and progressive a country might become, its freedom, independence and power remain fragile and it remains endangered if it remains outside the framework of Arab unity. Therefore, from a position of responsibility, I believe that Arab unity in general and any unity realized between one state and another will constitute a positive force for these two states and not a factor weakening either one or both.

As Ba'thists, we consider unity between Iraq and any other state as imperative for developing the unity factors. However, we cannot ignore the fact--or rather we are well aware--that unity between Iraq and Syria is more needed, is bound to offer more in the current Arab reality and has more components of continuation and strength. This unity can guarantee the requisites of steadfastness and confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the imperialist plots and threats to which the Arab nation is exposed.

The Ba'thists and the Iraqi sons are pained to see that the relations between Iraq and Syria are not proceeding on the road of unity. This clearly shows the aggravation of the Arab situation and the weakness and division that prevail. However, unity between two states and Arab unity can never be achieved by the masses' aspirations alone although the masses' beliefs constitute unity's historical and primary justification. There should be a firm and serious political will among the leaderships of countries looking toward unity.

I do not want to dwell here on the intrinsic aspects of unity, not because I want to ignore their importance but because every side can give reasons and stories to back his point of view. This might confuse the clear vision of the Arab masses.

I will focus on the objective aspects that constitute the bases of the unionist will of the Iraqi masses toward Syria. In so doing, we can judge whether or not the intrinsic aspects pertain to us.

1. The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party took power in Iraq in 1968. Iraq was then a weak and backward country. Its national unity was also weak and endangered. Iraq played an ineffectual role in Arab reality and in the international arena. Twelve years after the revolution, Iraq has not retreated and as a result is neither subjected to division nor experiencing any international crisis. Friends and enemies admit that Iraq has strengthened year after year during these 12 years. Its unity has been consolidated; its resources have been developed; and its national and international role has been intensified.

I believe that a state possessing all these qualifications need not fear any unity between two states. These qualifications constitute the will to unity, particularly since the political ideology of its leadership and the heritage of its people are deeply linked to Arab unity.

2. Iraq has more potential than the Syrian state. It has a big area, more citizens and more resources and a stronger army. Thus, it is natural for its leadership not to harbor any apprehension over establishing unity with a fraternal state, which according to these objective aspects has less potential, even though this side is naturally dear to the heart of every Arab and rich in the potential of its great masses.

3. We do not wish to talk about ourselves but would like the Arab masses and noble sons of the nation pass judgment on the relationship between the leadership and the people in Iraq. If the relationship is healthy and the people rally round and respond to their leadership, such leadership can neither harbor apprehension over nor hesitate to proceed toward such a historical feat as unity, which would strengthen its position and role among its people and nation.

4. As in the past, the geographical, political and strategic requisities continue to push Iraq toward unity with Syria. Indeed, the neighboring territories and close relations established as a result; the common river; the complementary economies; the internal strength in the face of foreign threats; and the need for sea outlets, particularly in this age of oil--Iraq being one of the most important oil-exporting states--all these requisites make Iraq feel the need to establish a binding relationship with Syria. Naturally, the best, most useful and guaranteed relationship would be that of unity. Indeed, Iraq would benefit from unity at a time when it is offering sacrifices for it. Therefore the sacrifices which Iraq might have to offer for such a unity would not diminish the importance of the benefits which such unity would bring.

While Iraq, which proceeds from its principles and belief in the need to bolster the nonaligned movement, is offering substantial aid to African, Latin American, Asian and known Arab states, it will certainly not consider any commitments toward the fraternal Arab Syrian pepple as losses.

Finally, there are the requisities of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Some tendentious circles say that Iraq does not wish to proceed toward positive or unitary relations with Syria in order to evade the burdens it might have to shoulder in the Arab-Zionist conflict.

We say that since the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party came to power in Iraq in July 1968, one military battle took place between Syria and the Zionist enemy, the October 1973 war. Iraq contributed to this battle with known effectiveness and strength. Indeed, Iraq, which participated in the battle, did not call for a cease-fire. On the contrary, it called for continuing and expanding this battle.

As a responsible person and like all responsible leaders, I am aware that the sophisticated means of war possessed by the Zionist enemy will not confine the arena of any possible future battle between this enemy and the Arab nation to the states bordering it. After the states bordering it, Iraq is the closest state to the Zionist entity. Furthermore, the dangerous Zionist threats against Iraq for seeking to possess nuclear technology have made Iraq a central target for Zionist aggression. We must also not forget the Zionist slogan: "From the Nile to the Euphrates." Thus, from what threat would Iraq be escaping?

Due to all these elements Iraq is subjected to--the Zionist threat--it would be more useful for it to establish very strong relations with Syria, since this would provide it with better opportunities for defense and confrontation under the current situation.

O Arab brother, these are the objective requisites as we see them, requisites which contribute to making the political will and which form the greater part of the subjective aspects of the Iraqi leadership's stand. You as an Arab citizen and all the noble and loyal Arabs have to study these objective requisites, in addition to the other side's requisites and every side's objective circumstances, with scrutiny and objectivity in order to understand the impact of these requisites on any subjective assessment of the will and on decisionmaking and to avoid going astray and falling into confusion. Then we will be able to see the truth and explain matters soundly. We will also be able to know how to act in order to pave the way for unity and thus rid ourselves of pessimism and be able to provide the requisites for serious work toward unity.

Another aspect of the issue lies in the morality of the people and leaders who contribute effectively to making the political decisions and trends in our Arab homeland.

In this regard I believe that since many Arab officials and leaders have been in power for a considerable time, the people, researchers and loyal and honest sons would be acquainted with the nature of these leaders' morality and the extent of their commitment to what they say and write.

In this regard, I believe that the first criterion for the nature of any leader's morality lies in his dealing with his people since this is the key to dealing with others.

May God grant you and the loyal and honest sons of the nation success.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES RAS AL-KHAIMAH RULER

JN161027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)--President Saddam Husayn received Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and Ras al-Khaimah ruler, today.

The meeting, which was attended by Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf, dealt with the latest developments and events in the Arab arena and with the promotion of fraternal cooperation.

Shaykh Saqr is in Baghdad on an official visit of several days to Iraq.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 'ISSAT IBRAHIM'S VISIT TO ITALY

For the text of the joint communique issued on Revolutioln Command Council Deputy Chairman 'Issat Ibrahim's visit to Italy, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 17 September Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

VOICE OF IRAQI KURDISTAN REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS

JN061918 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1600 GMT 6 Sep 80

[Text] Some seven Iraqi soldiers and three repenters joined our revolution this week. The seven soldiers, six of whom are Kurdish and the other an Arab citizen, joined the revolution through the first branch of the party. Two of the repenters, who also submitted all their arms, joined the revolution through the Khanaqin local committee of the third branch of the party. The third repenter joined the revolution through the second branch of the party.

August Operations

JN092046 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1600 GMT 9 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Last August the peshmergas of our Kurdistan Democratic Party carried out 30 heroic operations. The enemy lost about 200 men, while scores of soldiers were wounded. The peshmergas captured 4 Kalashnikovs, 10 Kalashnikov magazines, 22 [words indistinct], a 60-mm gun, 2 (Grenovs) and quantities of munitions. The peshmergas also destroyed six military vehicles and one gun .

Our peshmergas' losses were four men killed and three wounded. Meanwhile, 11 soldiers and 3 repentants joined the ranks of the 26 May revolution.

Technical Fault

JN141830 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Bahdinani Kurdish at 1635 GMT on 14 September carried the following announcement:

"Dear listeners, your radio station, Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan, has been off the air for the past 2 days, during which a technical fault was repaired. Please write and inform us through any means available to you, such as our party organization and peshmerga, about the reception of this station. Give your suggestions to improve and develop this station. Is the station audible and clear in your various areas? Dear listeners, the Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan greets you and wishes our people victory and progress."

The announcement was repeated in Surani Kurdish and in Arabic.

PRIME, INFORMATION MINISTERS MEET WITH PRC'S JI PENGFEI

JN161250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] In his office today, Prime Minister Mudar Badran received Ji Pengfei, vice premier of the PRC State Council, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information minister and acting foreign minister.

Badran expressed his happiness at the delegation's visit and welcomed Ji Pengfei and the delegation on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people. In turn, Ji Pengfei conveyed the PRC State Council chairman's greetings to Badran and the Chinese people's greetings to the Jordanian people.

Badran and Ji Pengfei expressed their satisfaction with the development of the two countries' friendly relations. Ji Pengfei praised Jordan's progress, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, particularly in the economic and social fields. He wished Jordan further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian Ambassador in Beijing and the PRC ambassador in Amman.

'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, information and acting foreign minister, received the vice premier of the PRC State Council and his delegation in the Foreign Ministry this morning. They reviewed Jordanian-Chinese relations since the 1977 establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. The two sides underlined their joint wish to consolidate friendly relations in various fields, in the interest of the two countries.

Evening Talks

JN162105 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] The Jordanian side under Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the PRC side under Ji Pengfei, vice premier of the PRC State Council, held talks at the Prime Ministry this evening. The two sides reviewed the international situation in general and the Middle East and the Southeast Asia situation in particular.

The prime minister explained the Arab stand on the Israeli occupation of the Arabs land. He also explained Arab efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement based on the declared principles to which the Arabs adhere, on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and on the Palestinian people's right to determine their destiny on their national soil.

The vice premier of the PRC State Council stressed his country's complete agreement with the Arab stand. He expressed the PRC's support for the Arabs' legitimate struggle to regain their lands and for their efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of relations during the short period which followed the establishment of diplomatic representation between them in 1977. They reviewed aspects to develop this cooperation in various fields particularly in the economic sector. They agreed to form a joint minicommittee [lujnah musagharah] to discuss the principles for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The talks were attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information and acting foreign minister; 'Ali as-Suhaymat, minister of transport and minister of state for prime ministry affairs; Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, president of National Planning Council; 'Amir Shammut, Foreign Ministry secretary general; Kamal al-Hamud, Jordanian ambassador in Beijing; and Munir ad-Durrah, director of the prime minister's office.

On the PRC side the talks were attended by Kung Ta-Fei, assistant foreign minister, the PRC ambassador in Amman, the director of West Asian and North African affairs department, the adviser at the PRC embassy in Amman and members of the accompanying delegation.

POWERPLANT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOVIET ORGANIZATION

JN170537 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Excerpt] An agreement was signed today at the natural resources authority between the authority and the Soviet Tekhnopromexport organization. By this agreement, the Soviet organization will undertake a detailed study of the technical and economic importance of a 300-400 MW steam powerplant project.

ITALIAN PRESIDENT, WIFE TO VISIT 29 SEP-1 OCT

JN151517 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Text] Amman, 15 Sep (PETRA)--The Royal Hashemite Court issued the following statement today:

At the invitation of His Exalted Majesty King Husayn, his excellency the Italian president and Mrs Pertini will pay an official visit to Jordan from 29 September to 1 October.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SARKIS, MAKES STATEMENT

NC161035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] This morning, President Ilyas Sarkis received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, which was conveyed to him by Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Minister Khaddam said after the meeting that the message was connected with the general situation in the area and its developments.

Minister Khaddam added: I have outlined to President Sarkis the unitary step between the two Arab countries--Syria and Libya. We also reviewed the bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon. His excellency gave me a message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Asked about the contacts between Beirut and Damascus concerning the reported security plan and arrangements facilitating the formation of a new government, Khaddam said: I would like first to object to the phrase: arrangements facilitating the formation of a new government. Such facilities are neither connected with us nor with His Excellency President Sarkis. It is, however, connected with the Lebanese parties, who are asked to take positive and serious steps toward the formation of a national accord government, which will contribute toward drawing up a security plan for Lebanon to restore security, stability and calm to the Lebanese people, who aspire to this.

Asked whether he discussed this subject with President Sarkis today, Khaddam said: We discussed several subjects, naturally including the general situation in Lebanon.

Asked if he would meet with foreign minister Fu'ad Butrus, Khaddam said: We will meet with him in New York, God willing.

Asked whether he was now going to Algeria, Khaddam said: We first return to Damascus and then leave for Algeria.

Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib attended part of the meeting between President Sarkis and Minister Khaddam.

Airport Departure

NC161446 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Excerpts] Minister Khaddam was seen off at Beirut airport by the commander of the Arab Deterrent Forces, Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib, and the commanders of the security organs at the airport.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON EEC STATEMENT

NC170905 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] Commenting on the EEC stand regarding Lebanon, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today said: We appreciate the EEC's stand on Lebanon and the concern over its unity, sovereignty and security. What gives special importance to the new European statement is the fact that it was made following the fierce aggressions committed by Israel and its militia against south Lebanon, at a time when repeated Israeli threats were being made to continue the aggression against Lebanon, and while the United States was preoccupied with the electoral campaign.

Al-Huss added: The unequal war which Israel is waging against Lebanon can only be checked by effective pressure by those who possess the means to apply pressure on the aggressor Israel, who would be powerless without their material and moral support.

The prime minister concluded: Our appreciation of the European stand is coupled with our regret for the U.S. presidential candidates' biased pro-Israel stands in order to win the Jewish vote even at the expense of right and justice.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT MEETS UNDER AL-ASAD

JN161713 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--The Progressive National Front Central Command met under President Hafiz al-Asad at 1230 today. The command discussed the merger unity between the two fraternal Arab countries of Syria and Libya and what has been achieved in this respect. The command also discussed the results of last week's Tripoli meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi which resulted in the Tripoli declaration on the establishment of the unitary state of the two countries and in the issuance of the resolution declaring unity.

The Central Command also discussed the work, expected soon, on the drawing up of the necessary resolutions and procedures on implementing the resolutions of the unity declaration.

The Central Command blessed the efforts to date. It stressed the importance of continuing these efforts in order to achieve complete success for the unity of the two fraternal countries.

The Central Command also discussed general affairs in Syria and the development of Syria's Arab and international relations. The meeting ended at 1600 this afternoon.

ARAB PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE RESUMES MEETINGS

JN161341 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Excerpt] Damascus--The second meeting of the extraordinary session of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference was held this morning. The conference discussed the role played by the Arab masses in protecting the unity between the two fraternal states, Libya and Syria.

ENVOY LEAVES FOR TUNISIA, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA

JN161333 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, left Damascus for Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania at noon today, to convey messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Habib Bourguiba, King Hassan II and Ould Haydala. The messages deal with developments in the current regional situation.

FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM LEAVES FOR LEBANON, ALGERIA

JN160959 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Damascus--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Lebanon and Algeria today to deliver messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Presidents Ilyas Sarkis and Chadli Bendjedid.

ALGERIA

PAPER SUPPORTS PROPOSED LIBYAN-SYRIAN MERGER

LD161151 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 5-6 Sep 80 p 1

[APS article: "A Milestone on the Road to Arab Unity"]

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad's positive response to leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's proposal to establish total union between the two countries has been greeted with satisfaction by the Arab masses who see in it a significant response to their desire for unity and a strengthening of Arab potential in the struggle against imperialist and neocolonialist maneuvers aimed at weakening the Arab nation and winding up the Palestinian question.

President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's proposal concerning a total merger between Libya and Syria has come at an opportune moment to strengthen the position of Arab opposition to so-called Camp David accords and provides, for the Arab cause in general and Palestinian resistance in particular, a new stimulus likely to modify the particulars of the imperialist-Arab conflict. It also tends to strengthen the role played by the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. It represents a new stimulus for Arab solidarity and makes more obvious the distinction between those who oppose the Camp David accords on the one hand and those who have continually supported this plan on the other hand. In fact, cutting through the attitudes both of the former and of the latter, the Libyan leader's proposal will force all countries to unequivocally determine their attitude toward the Camp David accords and, consequently, reveal in the full light of day the Arab nation's enemies who have long been secretely working against its destiny. As a result, supporters of an opportunist policy will be unmasked.

Under the circumstances the implementation of this proposal, which represents merely the first step toward Arab unity, is, therefore, of an exceptional nature since it will make it possible to face up to the dangers which threaten the Arab liberation movement's relations in general and the Palestinian cuase--the key to the Arab-Israeli conflict--in particular. These dangers have now assumed the form of a tripartite As-Sadat-Carter-Begin alliance, threats hanging over the Arab Gulf and the Red Sea, repeated Israeli aggressive acts against Lebanon and the recent Zionist decision to annex the holy city of Jerusalem.

As for Algeria, which will tirelessly strive for a rapprochement among Arab countries, it can only be pleased with this proposal for unity. In any case, as the national charter stipulates, "at the time of big entities, such unity has become an urgent imperative for the Arab peoples' emancipation. At any rate, the history of recent years has shown that events are moving in the direction of such unity and that the era when it seemed mere wishful thinking is over."

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ARRIVES 16 SEP

LD161940 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Algiers this afternoon. At the VIP lounge at the airport he made the following statement to the television service reporter.

[Begin Khaddam recording] President Hafiz al-Asad entrusted me with the task of carrying a (?personal) message to (?his brother) President Chadli Bendjedid on the developments in the area, the Arab arena and in the (?field) of the Arab-Israeli (?struggle). [passage indistinct] [end recording]

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI'S SPEECH COVERS MERGER WITH SYRIA, U.S. THREAT

LD162004 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1638 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Speech by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at 16 September rally in Sluq to mark the 49th anniversary of the martyrdom of 'Umar al-Mukhtar--live]

[Excerpts] Brothers, this is the lesson of history which we must learn: America, Israel and their agents must learn this--willpower is stronger than material power. Brothers, we know our history and our past; we are strong enough today to stand against America. The unity with Syria is aimed at demolishing Arab regionalism; it is the start of a counterattack against enemies of the Arab nation. [shouts and applause] We shall march forward, brothers, to consolidate this unity in all its stages; we shall march forward, brothers, in order to complete all stages of the merger between Libya and Syria. Despite our enemies, we shall make this unity a reality.

The merger between Libya and Syria is the signal starting the counteroffensive. As from now, Arab regionalism will become a danger for those who shelter behind it. Regionalism will provide no protection for the regionalists. To join the caravan of unity will be our salvation. We [words indistinct] declare this: We will compel the Arab nation, brothers, to defend itself.

These words do not mean, brothers, that the enemy will not inflict losses on us; or that there is no need for bravery or confrontation or challenge or for the decision of death. The enemy may inflict on us great losses. But here (?we must be) brave; our bravery means that we accept the challenge; we accept the losses; we accept death. We accept all that for the sake of challenging the enemy. We are confident we will triumph over the enemy in the end.

This does not mean, brothers, that the United States does not possess the biggest material means of destruction; but this is not important. What is important is this: Shall we bow our heads for the United States because of these means, or shall we disregard them and accept the danger but with our heads raised high before the United States? [shouts and chants]

We appreciate the gigantic U.S. force. But this is not important, as I have pointed out. The important thing is that this gigantic force is formidable; therefore, we should accept the challenge either we die or freedom triumphs. No matter what the United States may have in terms of force, this does not justify the United States in expecting us to give up our freedom. Let the United States have any force; but this does not justify it forbidding us from living free. No matter how great the U.S. force may be, the Arab nation has the right to live free on its land. We are now preparing ourselves--when I say this, I mean that we should prepare ourselves for the confrontation. This is not easy! This means that we should accept losses, even death. The enemy is strong. In turn, we accept the challenge.

The Libyan-Syrian decision on unity will be imposed; this decision will be imposed, and confrontation with the United States and the Israelis will be inevitable--even for those who want to flee. To flee where, you cowards? Where do you want to flee, you cowards? This nation is destined to confront the United States and the Israelis in order to live without bowing its head. What value does life have, brothers? If the United States possesses force, does this mean that we ought to give up our right to live?

We did not decide to invade the United States. The United States itself decided to invade the Arab homeland. We have the right to defend our homeland. If other heads are bowed before the United States, we have decided not to bow ours. Libya is the closest place which can be subjected to U.S. aggression. But Libya is the strongest place to challenge. The U.S. forces at these moments are carrying out wide-scale strategic exercises near the Libyan shores. The United States is using this [word indistinct] to attack the merger. We welcome the challenge, because we have decided to challenge. Let the United States involve itself in the most (?complex) military and political operations. Let the United States involve itself in the biggest adventure. We want the United States to involve itself in something like that. We want the United States to encroach into Libyan waters and airspace, because we will fight it, we will fight it face-to-face. We will sacrifice. [applause and shouts]

TUNISIA

MZALI REPORTS RESULTS OF ALGERIAN VISIT

LD161135 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Sep 80 p 8

[Daniel Junqua dispatch: "Institutionalization of Regular Meetings Demonstrates Improvement in Relations Between Algiers and Tunis"]

[Text] Algiers--Mr Mzali's 7-9 September visit to Algiers has restored confidence, improved the political climate and revealed a desire to develop bilateral cooperation and political consultation. Before flying home on Tuesday evening, the Tunisian prime minister did not hide his satisfaction. The "direct and frank" dialogue which has been established will be continued. The two prime ministers will meet every 6 months in each country alternately. He has invited his counterpart Abdelghani to visit Tunisia on 8 February for the anniversary of the French air force bombing in 1956 of the Tunisian city of Sakiet-Sidi-Youssef, near the Algerian border, and of the [Algerian] national liberation front fighters.

The joint grand commission, set up by the treaty of friendship and good-neighborly relations signed in Tunis in January 1970, which had not met for 5 years, will meet in Tunis on 13 and 14 October. The agreements and conventions which exist between the two countries will be "revived" and exchanges of visits at different levels will be increased.

"The problems we have experienced," Mr Mzali told us during an interview, "were often caused by superficial reactions. My meeting with President Bendjedid has convinced me of three things: 1--Tunisia can have confidence in Algeria, from which it has nothing to fear; 2--Algeria sincerely wants to cooperate with us; 3--Algeria gives priority to the struggle against poverty and to promoting development. We must henceforth concentrate on practical questions and facilitate relations between the peoples. Steps will be taken to make the movement of people easier and to help the inhabitants of border zones to cooperate. In June we lifted all barriers to Algerian tourists' entering Tunisia."

The two delegations decided to increase trade, which is regarded as highly inadequate. Tunisian officials are interested in Algerian gas. Under the terms of agreements reached with Rome they will take 6 percent of the 12 billion cubic meters of gas to cross their territory through the Hassi R'mel-Italy gas pipeline, in other words more than 0.5 billion cubic meters of gas per year. Additional quantities--to be negotiated--will be granted to Tunisia when the gas pipeline--a "real umbilical cord," Mr Mzali told us--transports 18 billion cubic meters per year thanks to the installation of compressor stations.

On the cultural plane, the Tunisians have promised to meet Algerian requests for teachers on as broad a basis as possible. Tunisia has considerable potential, especially in the literary and religious disciplines.

As far as foreign policy is concerned, the two sides, in the context of their support for the Palestinian people's struggle, "call on all Arab and Islamic states to combine their efforts to prevent the Zionist enemy from making Jerusalem its capital." On the other hand the communique is discreet about the struggle being waged by the Polisario and merely expresses the hope that "the committee of wise men meeting in Freetown will achieve a peaceful and lasting solution to the Western Sahara question."

Mr Mzali, who did not meet with Saharan representatives, told us that his talks with Hassan II in June and with the Algerian president the previous day had given him "the impression that there is now less passionate feeling on both sides and that there is a real will to overcome the problem." "We must therefore," he concluded, "allow time to do its work."

Furthermore, while asserting his sympathy for gestures in the direction of unity, Mr Mzali did not hide his skepticism about the chances of the Syrian-Libyan union's succeeding, given the distance between the two countries and the ideological differences between the Ba'thist doctrine and the doctrine of the third force dear to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. "Union," he told us, "is a goal which we are all pursuing but, to attain it, objective conditions must exist. In any case the Syrian-Libyan rapprochement must not be regarded by the Arab countries as a radicalization of the split between the so-called "steadfast" countries and those described as "moderate."

ITALIAN, TUNISIAN FOREICN MINISTERS SPEAK ON TRADE

LD161125 Tunis L'ACTION in French 2 Sep 80 pp 4-5

[Unattributed report on speeches made by Tunisian Foreign Minister Belkhodja and Italian Foreign Minister Colombo "at dinner given in honor of the Italian foreign minister" on 1 September]

[Text] Yesterday, Foreign Minister Hassan Belkhodja gave a luncheon at the Africa Hotel in Tunis in honor of Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and the delegation accompanying him on his official visit to Tunisia.

During an exchange of toasts, Hassan Belkhodja, who spoke first, stated that Italy and Tunisia face the Mediterranean, between Europe and Africa, and have both been entrusted by nature and history with many external responsibilities with respect to the future of many people.

Describing Emilio Colombo's visit as a "natural consequence of the friendship which has constantly increased between the two countries," Mr Belkhodja emphasized that "this event now seems both natural and necessary. Natural because it stresses a feeling of unity between Tunisia and Italy through culture, civilization and history. And necessary because it has made it possible to show how determined the two countries are to help to create a climate of detente, stability and peace which are now indispensable for world balance."

"We are anxious," Mr Belkhodja added, "to strive to preserve peace around us and to seek political solutions to international disputes while taking care that nations' independence is safeguarded."

Referring to the Middle East problem, Mr Belkhodja stated that more than 15 years ago President Bourguiba openly advocated a solution based on international law likely to restore the Palestinian people's national rights.

"A political solution of this kind would be possible only if the Israelis had a change of heart and at last admitted the inevitable fact that the PLO is the only legitimate spokesman for the Palestinian people as their representative," Mr Belkhodja added.

"Even though we were pleased with the statement on the Middle East made by EEC heads of state and government in Venice in June 1980, we believe it advisable for Europe to make new gestures and take new action--through thought, political terminology and initiative--to fulfill the hopes pinned on it by the Palestinian people," the minister continued.

After emphasizing Tunisia's commitment to the ideal of independence, equality among peoples and international detente and its appreciation of friendly countries' support and sympathy, Mr Belkhodja stated: "Ever since it achieved independence, Tunisia has settled down to the task of development. However, the plans which it has been implementing to ensure for its population a level of prosperity to which the modern world is entitled require sacrifices and self-denial."

And the minister added: "Since economic, technical, scientific and cultural development has become a legitimate desire and an urgent obligation, it is quite natural that cooperation between Tunisia and Italy should develop. Year after year, an especially fruitful kind of relations has developed between our two countries as a result of the fact that they closely combine economic activities with spiritual life.

"Our cooperation is bas d on a community of democratic values which we share, on the complementariness of our economies and, perhaps, equally, on dialogue between our cultures."

The foreign minister also stated that "in view of the construction of a gas pipeline now in hand, bilateral cooperation can seem to be exemplary," but he emphasized that "trade exchanges and financial, technical and cultural cooperation must be reexamined in accordance with the two countries real possibilities. As for industrial cooperation, it is nonexistent.

"Tunisia believes that, to deal with socioeconomic problems with which it will be confronted in the coming decade, it must achieve a higher development stage.

"This option calls for the installation in Tunisia of big industrial enterprises from friendly industrialized countries which would integrate as far as possible into the Tunisian industrial fabric and whose activities would be aimed at reexporting finished or semifinished products. Italy is being asked to ensure such a real technology transfer, which would lead to cooperation profitable to our two countries and commensurate with our ambition," the minister further stated.

"Our relations with the EEC induce us to state in urgent terms Tunisia's wish to see the 1976 agreement implemented according to its letter and spirit. This agreement provides for neither any safeguarding clause nor for any limiting or debarring protectionist policy with respect to the entry of our agricultural and industrial products into EEC countries, as is the case now. We are also concerned that the Common Market is being enlarged to include some countries--with whom we have friendly relations, to be sure--whose production and foreign trade structures are too similar to ours not to unfavorably affect our economy unless we are careful. It is, therefore, a matter of importance that we agree on the procedure to be followed during negotiations on any enlargement to ensure that the achievements embodied in the cooperation agreement are preserved through in-depth consultations," Hassan Belkhodja concluded.

As for Emilio Colombo, he expressed his satisfaction with the climate of friendship, cooperation and trust which marks relations between Tunisia and Italy while emphasizing his country's commitment to a continuation of frequent consulations with Tunisia on all major problems relating to the Mediterranean region, the Middle East and Africa.

"Indeed, we are aware of these regions' intrinsic geopolitical unity and, consequently, of the fact that peace and security in these territories are indivisible," Emilio Colombo stated in this context.

And the Italian minister added: "In fact, the Italian Government intends to encourage any effort likely to extend cooperation areas by overcoming any possible difficulties with a view to adopting an ambitious large-scale program for cooperation between Italy and Tunisia."

"We are aware of the special importance of our two countries' role in the context of any large-scale for north-south cooperation with particular reference to the Mediterranenan area."

Discussing the Middle East situation, Mr Emilio Colombo emphasized the need for all peace-loving forces to play the role to which they are entitled and assume their responsibilities.

After recalling the nine EC countries' attitude to the Arab-Israeli conflict and efforts made to unfreeze the Middle East situation, the Italian minister explained the position adopted by Italy which he said, "has not failed to express its views on certain developments which, we believe, are dangerous and likely eventually to put obstacles in the way of peace. For instance, on 1 August we stated that the Israeli parliament's adoption of the law on a new status for Jerusalem as the Israeli state's eternal and indivisible capital was inconsistent with UN resolutions and unacceptable."

And the Italian minister stated in conclusion: "Allow me to say that Tunisia, whose gravitational pull extends far beyond the pull which it should exert for its geographical size and population, has a special role to play in this sphere. For Tunisia has some very valuable assets--its people's civic virtues and its leading class' maturity. Insofar as these assets are projected abroad--within a regional framework--some important factors will be derived from them which will help to achieve objectives proposed by us, namely the creation of a harmonious balance in a territory which will uphold two principles generally accepted by the international community, that is, the right to existence and security for all states in the region and justice for all peoples, which implies recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights."

The following people, among others, were invited to the luncheon: Agriculture Minister Lassaad Ben Osman, Director of the Prime Minister's Office Mezri Chekir, Foreign Ministry Secretary General Taieb Sahbani and Marshal of Protocol Abdelmajid Maroui.

TEXT OF JOINT FRENCH-TUNISIAN COMMUNIQUE

LD161357 Tunis L'ACTION in French 5 Sep 80 p 7

[Text of joint communique published at end of French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet 3-4 September 1980 visit to Tunisia]

[Text] The great French-Tunisian ministerial joint commission, set up by a joint declaration published on 30 June 1972, held its eighth session in Tunis on 3-4 September 1980.

The Tunisian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Hassan Belkhodja. The French delegation was led by Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

Mr Jean Francois-Poncet was received in audience by His Excellency Mr Habib Bourguiba, president of the Tunisian republic. He was also received by Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

The great commission's work took place in an atmosphere of profound cordiality consistent with the bonds of friendship, confidence and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries. It clearly indicated a common desire to further develop in depth an already successful cooperation of long standing which has been inspired by the historic visits of President Bourguiba to France and President Giscard d'Estaing to Tunisia.

The two ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fact that close contacts are being maintained both between the two governments and at all levels. These contacts have made it possible to exchange information and hold regular consultations on all questions of common interest.

They made a broad survey of international political problems. They reaffirmed the two countries' commitment to the cause of peace and security based on respect for the independence of countries and their territorial integrity.

The two ministers discussed the Near East situation and expressed grave concern over the deterioration in the situation in that region. They agreed that a solution to the Palestinian problem is of primary importance for insuring a just and lasting peace. They emphasized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination within the framework of a global settlement which would ensure security in the region with the participation of all parties concerned. This implies PLO participation.

Furthermore, they restated that Israel should withdraw from all occupied Arab territories including the holy city of Jerusalem. They also condemned the recent illegal decision to unilaterally modify that city's status.

Referring to the statement made by EEC heads of state and government in Venice on 13 June 1980, the Tunisian delegation explained that, even though it does not fulfill all the aspirations of the Palestinian people, this statement represents a positive contribution toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In connection with this, the Tunisian delegation expressed the hope that Europe would play a constructive role in the search for peace in this region.

The two ministers discussed the situation in Central Asia. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, they agreed that events in that country have endangered detente and violated international law and they expressed the hope that the relevant UN resolutions would be respected.

They also discussed the situation in Africa. Tunisia and France expressed their concern about the risks of tension which endanger the continent's security and represent an important obstacle to efforts aimed at development.

The two delegations condemned the policy and the methods of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and reaffirmed that everything possible should be done to ensure that Namibia rapidly achieves independence and complete and full sovereignty in accordance with UN resolutions.

The two ministers agreed that the African Continent must be kept free of any interference in order to ensure that security and peace, responsibility for which devolves upon the Africans themselves, are safeguarded and that Africa is able to work for development in peace.

The two delegations emphasized the importance which they attach to a resumption of European-Arab dialogue in all its aspects, including its political aspect. They agreed to intensify their consultations with a view to taking initiatives likely to facilitate such a resumption.

Special attention was paid to a survey of the situation in the Mediterranean area and the need to develop political and economic consultations and cooperation among Mediterranean countries. The two ministers restated their belief that European security and cooperation cannot be dissociated from Mediterranean security and cooperation. In anticipation of the coming conference on security and cooperation in Europe in Madrid, they agreed to act jointly to ensure that non-European Mediterranean countries are able to play the role to which they are entitled during this meeting.

Relations between Tunisia and the EEC were discussed in depth. Special attention was given to the methods of implementation of the 25 April 1976 Tunisian-EEC cooperation agreement and to the plan for enlarging the community.

The two ministers agreed on the need for effective French action to ensure a better disposal for Tunisian agricultural and industrial products on the community market. They stated that they would like to see more attention paid to Tunisian workers' security of employment and residence in EEC countries.

The Tunisian delegation expressed the hope that consultations would take place between Tunisia and the EEC during negotiations on enlargement. The French delegation expressed its complete understanding of Tunisian concern and stated that it will again submit Tunisian proposals to its partners in the common market and communities commission and that it will insist on the need for Tunisia's interests to be taken into consideration.

The French delegation stated that the first documents relating to the consequences of any enlargement for relations with Mediterranean countries has been submitted by the commission to the communities council. It expressed the view that these documents represnt a first stage of a study of Tunisian misgivings and express the desire to ensure that the train of thoughts thus started is continued and developed in depth.

The Tunisian delegation expressed interest in the French proposal for tripartite talks among the Arab, European and African worlds and calls on all concerned to intensify consultations on the subject.

The French delegation expressed its satisfaction with this support and restated its own support for the implementation of the tripartite cooperation advocated by President Bourguiba since 1973.

The two delegations examined all aspects of French-Tunisian economic and financial relations and expressed their wish to give a new dimension to this cooperation.

In the first place, trade exchanges were the subject of an in-depth analysis. In connection with this, the two delegations studied various ways to reduce the existing imbalance in exchanges unfavorable to Tunisia and to encourage joint initiatives and actions which would facilitate the promotion of Tunisian exports to France.

The two ministers also agreed that henceforth economic relations between Tunisia and France will have to progress toward cooperation in the production sphere. With this end in mind, it was decided to encourage a policy of industrial cooperation. Therefore, the French delegation stated that it is willing to encourage a setting up of industrial units in Tunisia accompanied by a real transfer of technology.

While emphasizing that any new Tunisian-French cooperation must be given means which would enable it to achieve the desired development, the Tunisian delegation recalled the idea of creating an investment bank with which some French banks would be associated. The French delegation indicated its support for the objectives sought by means of creating such an organization and stated that it is eager to accelerate the study of the subject which has already started.

The two delegations decided to establish cooperation in the energy sphere. The purpose of such cooperation will, among other things, be to devise ways and to save energy and seek new energy resources.

The two ministers expressed their satisfaction with the fact that negotiations on French state assistance are to start in Tunis very soon.

The two delegations emphasized that cultural, scientific and technical cooperation have continued to develop in a positive manner. They reaffirmed their commitment to the teaching of Arabic in French secondary schools toward which Tunisia will contribute.

Furthermore, they emphasized that importance which they attach to technical cooperation and its concentration in priority sectors of Tunisia's development plan with a view to facilitating the transfer of technology.

Tunisian-French relations in the social and consular spheres, especially with reference to questions concerning manpower, professional training, social security and circulation of people, were examined in depth.

The French delegation emphasized the importance which it attaches to the problem of a transfer of the assets which French nationals would like to repatriate from Tunisia and its hope that a solution to this problem will be found.

The Tunisian delegation took note of this.

In response to concern expressed by the Tunisian delegation about questions relating to the Tunisian community in France, assurances were given by the French delegation that the situation of Tunisian nationals will be the subject of consultations in a spirit of the close and trustful relations existing between the two countries.

TEAM BELIEVES LINOWITZ DOCUMENT CONTRADICTS ACCORDS

TA161421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] The ministerial autonomy team believes that the document submitted by Linowitz with a proposal for the framework of the autonomy includes some points which contradict the Camp David accords. The team met today to discuss the U.S. document and will meet again tomorrow together with the prime minister.

Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has reported that meanwhile contacts are continuing between Israel and Egypt on resuming the autonomy talks by convening the steering committee, which is to determine the level of the resumed talks and where they will be held.

PERES RELEASED FROM HOSTPITAL IN GOOD HEALTH

TA161317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres left the Tel Hashomer hospital at noon and returned home after all the tests had been concluded and it emerged that his health is good. Shim'on Peres was hospitalized yesterday for tests after he felt weakness and general fatigue.

NEGOTIATIONS ON TRANSPORT TO BEGIN IN AL-'ARISH

TA161629 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Sep 80 p 2

[Text] Cairo--Egyptian and Israeli negotiators will meet in Al-'Arish early next week for talks on the streamlining of procedures for moving goods across the border.

No firm dates have been set for the talks, but they are expected to begin either Sunday or Monday, and continue for two or three days. Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamil Radwan, successor to Maj-Gen Taha al-Majdub as normalization chief, will head the Egyptian team.

The talks, at specialist level, are one result of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali last week.

The specific issues to be discussed in Al-'Arish will be customs procedures at the temporary border-post, and ways to coordinate "back-to-back" commerce by road between Israel and Egypt.

Under the trade protocol initialled in May but not yet ratified by the Egyptian Parliament, only private vehicles are permitted to cross the border. Goods must be transferred "back-to-back" at the border from a vehicle of one nationality to a vehicle of the second nationality.

FINANCE MINISTRY WANTS TO CUT DEFENSE BUDGET

TA161732 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Sep 80 p 3

[Text] The Finance Ministry wishes to slash 20 billion Israeli pounds from the defense budget. A proposal to this effect has been prepared in the treasury budget department.

According to this project, the budgets of all government offices will be cut by about 5 percent. The defense budget cut will be larger than that of other ministries.

The budget department is busy now preparing an updated state budget. The original budget, 653 billion pounds, was prepared on the basis of an unrealistic forecast of annual price increases: 65 percent. The updated forecast is twice as much, that is 130 percent.

Updating the budget according to the full rate of price increases requires an annual budget of 930 billion pounds, but the treasury does not want to compensate the government ministries fully for the price hikes, but rather to cut down their activity by about 5 percent.

The total sum that the treasury wants to cut from government expenditure is approximately 50 billion Israeli pounds.

HA'ARETZ: PLO DRAFTS SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR JERUSALEM

TA161804 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Sep 80 p 1

[Military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff report: "The PLO Has Prepared a 'Settlement Plan' for Jerusalem To Attain an Arab Majority in the City"]

[Text] The PLO has drafted a "settlement plan for Jerusalem," designed to achieve an Arab majority in the city immediately after the implementation of any kind of political solution, including the autonomy plan solution, in the West Bank. The plan is to transfer several hundred thousand Palestinians from Lebanon to Jerusalem and to settle them, with the aid of Saudi Arabian money, in high-rise buildings especially constructed for this purpose, after the Hong Kong model.

Knowledge of this plan was recently obtained when PLO leaders were discussing the question of how to solve the Palestinian refugee problem. The PLO leaders believe that Palestinian refugees cannot possibly be settled in the Gaza district, because of the density of population and the large natural growth there. They estimate that the West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, will be able to absorb up to half a million refugees.

On the other hand, they plan to settle a large number of Palestinians, hundreds of thousands, in Jerusalem and in its environs. Their goals is to achieve an Arab majority in the city, irrespective of the sovereignty question. Since it would be difficult to spot zones for regular construction methods, the PLO leaders speak of a Hong Kong style construction of high rise buildings. They estimate that it will not be difficult to raise Arab, especially Saudi, funds to implement this settlement plan, which will enable the Arabs to reach a majority in the unified city within less than 10 years.

JEWISH AGENCY CIRCLES COMMENT ON SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

TA170952 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Sep 80

[Text] In the near future the settlement activity in Judaea and Samaria will concentrate on the consolidation and fleshing out of existing settlements and expansion of the rural blocks. This was reported to the ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria by Jewish Agency Settlement Department circles, in view of the reports that Gush Emunim intends to launch an extensive settlement project, unless the establishment of new settlements in the region is continued.

It has been learned that besides strengthening and fleshing out the existing settlements, 10 more settlements will be established in Judaea and Samaria, but apparently this will not be in the near future, because their establishment at the present time is not of primary concern.

Those circles said that in the past 3 years 38 settlements have been set up in Judaea and Samaria, which, in the opinion of all, is an unprecedented feat, and if there is any settlement movement that is dissatisfied with this situation, it has the right to act on its own.

POLL SHOWS MAJORITY FAVORS ISRAELI LAW ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TA161839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute shows that 70 percent of the adult Jewish population in Israel supports the application of the Israeli law on the Golan Heights. The poll was commissioned by the Golan Heights Settlements Committee and included more than 1,200 interviewees.

The chairman of the Golan Settlements Committee, Shim'on Shabat, told correspondent Haviva Roger that this is the third poll showing majority support for the implementation of the Israeli law on the Golan Heights. He expressed the settlements committee's surprise at the fact that both the government and the parties were ignoring this.

ARAB RESIDENTS TO HOLD RALLY IN EARLY DECEMBER

TA151525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Excerpt] The committee preparing a rally for all the Arab inhabitants of Israel has decided to hold it in Nazareth at the beginning of December. Dr (Emile Touma), one of the heads of the committee, said that the rally was intended to permit the Arab inhabitants to express their desire for a just peace and equality in Israel.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT FORBIDS BAGHRUTI'S SOFIA TRIP

TA151638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Text] The military government has forbidden a leader of the Communist Party in the territories, Bashir Baghruti, to leave the region in order to participate in a pro-Palestinian meeting in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Bashir Baghruti, who is confined to his town, Ramallah, is the editori of the AT-TALI'AH weekly and is one of the leaders of the national guidance committee. Two days ago he asked the military government to allow him to leave for Sofia, through Ben Gurion Airport, because he does not have a Jordanian passport but the military government denied this request.

A delegation from the Hadash faction of the Israeli Communist Party will leave for this meeting.

BEGIN'S OFFICE DENIES MAYOR'S STATEMENT ON 'GAZA FIRST'

TA151416 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Text] The prime minister's office has announced that the Gaza mayor's remarks to the effect that Israel intends to implement autonomy in Gaza first are totally without foundation. A source in the prime minister's office has told our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, that it was President as-Sadat who first introduced the idea of implementing autonomy in Gaza first and there is no factual basis for the impressions Rashad ash-Shawwa formed about the unilateral implementation [of this idea] at Israel's initiative.

ETHIOPIA

KUWAITI PAPER SAYS SOVIET, CUBAN 'REINFORCEMENTS' ARRIVING

LD141100 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 14 Sep 80

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Sep (KUNA)--New Soviet and Cuban reinforcements have arrived in Ethiopia and have taken up positions at a base close to Addis Ababa, reports the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' today, quoting Arabic diplomatic sources in Beirut, which it does not name.

The paper says that "30,000 soldiers, two-thirds of whom are Cubans" have arrived in Ethiopia and "camped at a Soviet base which has recently been established in Deba Derhan area."

The paper adds that the basic aim for setting up this base was to "defend" the regime of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam and "to train several hundred international rebels belonging to several countries, including Palestinians."

HUNGARY'S LOSONCZI PLEDGES SUPPORT AGAINST ENEMIES

LD161932 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 16 Sep 80 EA

[Text] Comrade President Pal Losonczi has reaffirmed that the Hungarian People's Republic places special value on the continuous victories being won by the Ethiopian revolution and that his country would also give firm and resolute support to the people of Ethiopia in their struggle against imperialism and counterrevolutionary forces. In a statement given this evening to journalists at the national palace, Comrade Losonczi disclosed that he and his high-level delegation had had the opportunity to see the strong revolutionary process taking place in Ethiopia during their official and friendly visit to socialist Ethiopia.

Speaking to journalists at the end of his visit to Ethiopia, Comrade Losonczi said that he was greatly impressed with the achievement of the Ethiopian revolution and the victories won by the people of Ethiopia in a brief period. He said he was most impressed with the care being given by the government to the children of the heroes of revolutionary Ethiopia and with what he saw during his visit to the children's village of revolutionary Ethiopia.

The president said that what he observed during the celebrations of the sixth anniversary of the revolution, namely the determination and unity of the people, was also very impressive. Comrade Losonczi said that the greatness of the Ethiopian revolution and the role it can play in the international revolutionary process if obvious. He said; Before we had admired the Ethiopian revolution, but only now, since taking part in the celebrations marking the revolution at Revolution Square in Addis Ababa, have we been able to understand properly the revolutionary determination of the people to build socialism in the country.

Comrade Losonczi added that a revolution which has managed to teach 7 million people to read and write in a period of less than a year at a time when the revolution was assailed by foreign invaders and international counterrevolutionaries can be taken as a model for developing countries.

He said that during his visit he held wide-ranging and detailed talks with Comrade Chariman Mengistu Haile Mariam, adding that the talks were held in a spirit of heartfelt friendship and comradeship. Comrade Losonczi said that he and Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam assessed the relations between their two countries and exchanged views on the conditions prevailing in their respective countries.

He said the talks they held were useful and that the two countries have been able to understand each other's problems.

The Hungarian president said that the views of the two countries were wholly identical regarding major international issues. He disclosed that the two countries have agreed to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation to strengthen relations and develop the cooperation between their two countries. Concluding his statement, he wished the Ethiopian revolution additional successes.

ERITREAN FRONT CLAIMS DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BATTALION

LD162018 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigriya 1500 GMT 16 Sep 80 EA

[Text] The Dergue's battalion-strong force which set out on a reconnaissance mission has been attacked by the heroic fighters of the EPLF [Eritrean People's Liberation Front]. The battalion-strong force which set out on its mission on 15 September, 1980, near the town of Afabet, which is presently under a tight siege by the EPLF forces, was fiercely attacked by the heroic fighters. Following a swift attack and under heavy fire, the the enemy force fled in disarray leaving behind 25 dead, 7 [word indistinct] and a quantity of ammunition. The heroic EPLF fighters returned to base without loss.

KENYA

COOPERATION TREATIES SIGNED WITH PRC IN BEIJING

LD161642 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 16 Sep 80 EA

[Text] Kenya today signed two treaties on cultural and technical cooperation, providing for Kenya to receive 350 million shillings for construction of a sports complex in Nairobi immediately. China also wrote off a 1964 loan to Kenya and promised to assist five projects in the country by giving qualified personnel. The signing ceremony was witnessed by His Excellency President Daniel Arap Moi and members of his entourage. Areas covered in the agreement signed today by two Kenyan ministers, Mr Robert Ouko and Mr Nicholas Biwott, including minihydro projects, bio-gas, exploration and development, rural light industrial estates, medical services and rice production.

The Chinese signatories to these treaties included the Chinese vice premier, Chen Muhua, and Culture Minister Huang Zhen. The signing of the treaties marks a new era of cooperation between Kenya and China. Later, President Moi held closed-door discussions with Chinese leader Chairman Hua Guofeng during which bilateral matters were discussed.

In another function this morning, President Moi called on African leaders to place the interests of their citizens above everything else, saying that solidarity among African leaders will be the only solution to help bridge the gap between the rich and poor. Addressing African diplomats based in Beijing, President Moi observed that Africa was faced with economic problems caused by continuing imbalances of trade and distribution of natural resources, a situation that he said needed correction. He expressed hope that the current economic imbalances in the world would be readjusted on mutual bases between the developed and developing countries.

SOMALIA

GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO REPORTED KENYAN STATEMENT

LD161404 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 16 Sep 80 EA

[Text] A Somali Government spokesman has expressed the Somali Democratic Republic's [SDR] surprise at a reported 14 September Kenyan Government statement on the basic cause of tension in the Horn of Africa.

The reported Kenyan Government statement was described by the SDR Government spokesman as being insincere and one meant to avoid the truth about the real cause of the problem in the region.

The spokesman went on to say that the basic cause of the situation in the Horn of Africa is the result of the armed struggle between the freedom fighters and the Abyssinian black colonialists.

The spokesman denied that the SDR had interfered in the internal affairs of any country or had any intention to do so now.

The spokesman made it quite clear that the policy of the SDR is to solve the Horn of Africa problem peacefully, through negotiations that can produce a just and lasting solution and attained by recognizing the rights of people to decide their own destiny, which is what the freedom fighters are struggling for.

The policy of the SDR, added the spokesman, is based on the internationally accepted principles of human rights, and the right of a people to independence and peaceful co-existence, to which all are entitled.

The spokesman added that the reported Kenyan statement is the result of a false propaganda campaign by the Addis Ababa regime aimed at disturbing the relationship between the two neighboring countries of Kenya and Somalia.

The spokesman said that if the reported statement is meant to discourage Somalia from extending legitimate assistance to freedom fighters in any part of the world, it is quite unacceptable to Somalia.

He concluded by saying that the SDR, as it had declared several times before, is ready at any time to foster good neighborliness and cooperation with its neighbors and to play its role in solving the problem in the Horn of Africa.

UGANDA

MUWANGA REQUESTS RESIGNATION OF CERTAIN MINISTERS

LD170818 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 17 Sep 80 EA

[Text] The chairman of the Military Commission, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has said the position of some ministers who voted against the government proposal that the members of the next National Assembly should be 126 is untenable and has asked them to resign. The following is the full statement of the chairman of the Military Commission:

The nation is aware that for several days now the National Consultative Council [NCC] has been debating the government bill, the National Assembly statute, 1980. This is the bill that will determine the number of elected members of the National Assembly. This is another step towards facilitating early free and fair elections.

Government decided on the number of 126, after the thorough discussion at various levels. The interparty committee decided, through a resolution made by a representative of Uganda People's Movement, that there should be a ceiling of 130 elected members of parliament.

Subsequent to this, Cabinet discussed all relevant factors and decided that the number of elected members of the National Assembly should be 126.

The government bill currently under discussion puts into effect this decision of Cabinet.

Under normal government machinery, officers of government, including Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, are expected to abide by the principle of collective responsibility.

It is in this connection that yesterday the minister of public service and Cabinet affairs and leader of government business made a statement in the NCC prior to the commencement of the business of the day. Hon Okwanje stressed, inter alia, that any government worth its name must operate within universally accepted norms. One of the cardinal principles of the government is the principle of collective responsibility.

This principle entails support of government policies, decisions and procedures by all government officers. Deviation from this principle often leads to anarchy and could jeopardize the stability of government.

Mr Okwanje urged the ministers and deputy ministers to abide by their oath of office as ministers and support the government bill.

He also stressed that in government practice government officers, including Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers who disagree with government policy, had the option to dissociate themselves from that policy by resigning.

As it happened, the government proposal for 126 elected members was upheld by the NCC.

However, it is regrettable to note that some ministers and deputy ministers defied the principle of collective responsibility, despite the call of the minister of public service and Cabinet affairs, and voted against the government bil.

The chairman of the Military Commission takes a very serious view of this conduct on the part of some Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers. In the circumstances, the position of these ministers and deputy ministers as members of the government is untenable.

They were fully aware when they voted against this government bill that they would either voluntarily resign or be liable to dismissal.

It would be in the interests of the country if they chose the former, namely to voluntarily resign.

[Signed] Paulo Muwanga, chairman of the Military Commission

CAMEROON

PRESIDENT AHIDJO RECEIVES DPRK DELEGATION

AB162012 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] A three-man delegation from the [Democratic] People's Republic of Korea led by His Excellency Yang Hyong-sop was received in audience at state house today by President Amadou Ahidjo. Mr Yang, who is president of the Academy of Social Science and a member of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party, told Radio Cameroon after the meeting that he was a bearer of a message of best wishes from North Korean President Kim Il-song. He said he was impressed by the progress Cameroon has made since independence.

Asked about the state of affairs aimed at reunifying North and South Korea, Mr Yang maintained that progress was hampered by a minority opposed to unity. He however expressed optimism at the chances of success. To this effect, he added, his country has the backing of many countries, especially Cameroon.

CHAD

GOVERNMENT TO BUY $50 MILLION WORTH OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

AB161824 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] London, 16 Sep (AFP)--The Government of Chad, embroiled in civil war, has signed a $50 million contract to buy military airplanes, tanks, trucks and medicines from a British company, sources in the company said today.

The firm, Flintgrance Limited, is a subsidiary of the Fanz organisation, a West African group headed by Francis Nzeribe, a Nigerian chief.

Chad President Oueddei Goukouni and his allies have been (?fighting for) months against forces of rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre for control of the Central African nation, one of the world's poorest.

HISSEIN HABRE REPORTED ON SECRET VISIT TO PARIS

AB151925 Paris AFP in French 1806 GMT 15 Sep 80

[Text] Geneva, 15 Sep (AFP)--Mr Hissein Habre, former Chadian defense minister and leader of the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), is currently in Paris on a secret visit, Mr Adoum Yacoub, secretary at the Chadian presidency told the Swiss Telegraphic Agency (ATS) on Monday.

Mr Yacoub, who was in Switzerland on Monday, added that Mr Habre had been received at the Elysee Palace and that the visit is in connection with the exhaustion of his troops in the field.

GOUKOUNI STATES POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH HABRE

AB162000 Paris AFP in French 1712 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Paris, 16 Sep (AFP)--Holding negotiations with Hissein Habre means making preparations for a new war. This view was expressed by Chadian President Oueddei Goukouni in an interview published on Tuesday by the Paris Newspaper LE MONDE. The president added: We will never hold negotiations with him.

Questioned on the meetings suggested by Togo and Guinea between the Chadian factions that have been fighting since 21 March last, the leader of the People's Armed Forces (FAP) said: We will go to Lome (the proposed venue of the talks) when the transitional National Union Government has held a meeting and made a decision, and above all when the countries organizing the meeting refrain from describing the negotiations as a meeting of the different factions in Chad. If there is any meeting, it will be one between a legal government and a rebel faction. Mr Giscard d'Estaing must understand that he will never impose his policy in Chad. He must stop calling for a federation, the Chadian head of state said: The Chadian people will determine their future themselves.

In order to solve our current crisis, we are ready to beg for help from any friendly nation, the president of the transitional National Union Government said in reply to a question about Libyan assistance to his coalition forces.

The issue of the Aouzou strip, a region in northern Chad that is very rich in mineral resources and is currently occupied by Libya, which is one of the main subjects of contention between Mr Hissein Habre and President Oueddei Goukouni, will be settled through peaceful negotiations and not through military conflict, the president added.

A federation of the coalition forces opposed to Mr Hissein Habre's Armed Forces of the North, FAN, can only be achieved when the transitional National Union Government has the concrete means of paying wages to all combatants, Mr Goukouni stated. He thanked French medical doctors and called on France to help bring about the revival of the Chadian economy.

President Goukouni concluded by pointing out that he had no intention of remaining head of state at the end of the war.

ZAIRE

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH FRG TALKS

AB161444 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1049 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Kinshasa 16 Sep (AZAP)--The state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Citizen Inonga Lokonga Lome, returned to Kinshasa on Tuesday from Bonn in the Federal Republic of Germany, where he led a Zairian delegation to meetings of the German-Zairian joint commission which took place in that city recently.

In an interview granted to the Voice of Germany and broadcast on Monday, Citizen Inonga stated that the documents submitted by the Zairian delegation at the sessions mainly concerned the agricultural, transportation and energy sectors. He was satisfied with the manner in which these documents were received by the German party.

BRIEFS

OIL EXPORTS--Kinshasa, 9 Sep (AZAP)--Zaire's total crude oil exports for the first half of 1980 totaled 3,409,187 barrels. Total exports for the first 3 months of that period stood at 1,410,687 barrels, while that of the last 3 months stood at 1,998,500. According to OZAC [Zairian Control Office], production during the last 3 months totaled about 665,000 barrels per month. The same source explained that production for the first 3 months was slightly lower because many wells were closed for repair work, which lasted nearly 2 weeks. [Kinshasa AZAP in French 1454 GMT 9 Sep 80 AB]

LIBERIA

MINISTER CLARIFIES EDUCATIONAL TIES WITH SOVIET UNION

AB162218 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Education Minister Dr Henry Boimah Fahnbulleh has reiterated that Liberia will accept assistance from any friendly country which will offer same. He said Liberia, as a nonaligned country, will follow the policy of positive neutrality and will not be selective in terms of friendship.

Dr Fahnbulleh was speaking to our reporter today to clarify reports about the departure of Liberian students for the Soviet Union to pursue higher education. He confirmed that since the 12 April coup, about 41 Liberians have left the country to pursue higher education in the Soviet Union.

The education minister said sending Liberian students for study in Russia was something that has been going on between the two countries for the past 5 years. But he formally disclosed that 15 scholarships were awarded to the Liberian Government in January this year by the Soviet Union but that the late President Tolbert had withheld their implementation because of what the late Tolbert described as security reasons.

The education minister said because Liberia needs doctors and engineers it is necessary to take advantage of all the scholarships offered by friendly countries. He disclosed that the reason why Liberian students going to Russia have to travel by way of Guinea is because there is no agreement between the two countries for Soviet planes to land on Liberian soil.

PRC SPEAKER URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST REVOLUTION'S ENEMIES

AB131330 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 13 Sep 80

[Text] The speaker of the People's Redemption Council, Brig Gen J. Nicholas Poldiear yesterday called on the Liberian people to be vigilant in the fight against enemies of the revolution. He said while the PRC Government was consolidating powers so that it will remain in the hands of the people, a few individuals are trying to undermine our efforts.

Installi officers of the student government at the (Stanford Bennis) high school in Monrovia the PRC speaker said the enemies have taken the leniency of the new leadership for weakness. General Poldiear warned that the PRC was ready to challenge, confront and crush any foes that are tempted to obstruct the people's goals. We must all join forces to crush our common enemies he declared.

Noting that the major problem facing the council was not when elections were to be held or when the soldiers returned to the barracks but how the country can be put on the right course and its external existence guaranteed, speaker Poldiear further urged his countrymen to widen their scopes of thinking and see beyond what he called the horizon of the [word indistinct].

NIGERIA

COMMENTARY DEPLORES TRADE DEFICIT WITH FINLAND

AB160911 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Station commentary]

[Text] Relations between Nigeria and Finland have defied geographical distance. In fact, since they (?filled) a formal status with the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1963, the bond has grown over the years.

At the moment there are 100 Finns living in Nigeria while a number of Nigerians are undergoing various courses of training in Finland. The Finns in Nigeria are engaged in several contract projects including the health care delivery program in Zaria, Kaduna state; the Ikeja plastic project, described as the largest in West Africa; the sawmill school near Benin; the construction of 1,500 housing units for the military, and the production of bicycle and motorcycle tubes and tyres at the rubber works in Lagos.

In the area of trade the link between Nigeria and Finland has been on for over a decade. Regrettably, their trade figures show an appalling gap between what Nigeria buys from Finland and what that country takes from us. The trade figures between 1972 and now clearly illustrate the deplorable situation. In 1972, for example, when Nigeria imported goods to the value of almost 3 million naira, Finland bought from Nigeria items worth just 186,000 naira. The same agonizing experience continued up to 1977 when Finland bought virtually nothing from this country while we spent about 15 million naira on imports from Finland. Today, the situation has not changed much because the latest available figures indicate that Finland is spending on Nigerian goods only 3 percent of what we spend on goods from Finland. The result is that Nigeria has suffered heavy imbalances of trade ranging from about 2.5 million naira in 1972 to about 29 million naira in 1978. Figures for last year are not expected to be anything encouraging.

Although Finland claims to support the principles of equity enunciated by developing countries under the proposed new international economic order, this has not been reflected in her economic relations with Nigeria. Facts and figures, on the other hand, show that Finland has been paying lip service to the principle which she says she supports. Under those principles she is expected to import from developing countries like Nigeria semi-finished as well as finished products and, where necessary, raw materials. In addition, Finland should invest in industrial and agricultural sectors and promote the development of technology in the country. The two nations, for instance, stand to gain in joint forest development projects established in Nigeria. After all, Finland is noted for large-scale forest industries supplying products on which Nigeria spends a lot of her foreign exchange reserves. Finland can also participate in projects designed to promote tourism in this country. In fact, where there is a genuine way for economic cooperation, there is great scope for activities in a country like Nigeria.

In this regard, the recent agreement on economic, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation negotiated and initialed between Nigeria and Finland should serve as a starting point for a change of attitude on the part of Finland in her economic relations with Nigeria. It is true that with regard to African problems Finland has won Nigeria's respect because of her stand against the apartheid policy of South Africa. Besides, Finland has given material aid amounting to 7 million naira to a number of African countries. Although this a gesture of goodwill, what is generally prefered these days is mutually beneficial trade, not aid.

The ideal relations between nations must be based on the concept of partnership for progress without either side being placed at a disadvantage. Therefore, if Nigeria-Finland relations must remain cordial, the recent agreement between them must be implemented in such a way as to remove all elements of one-sided economic benefit.

UPN DENIES INSTIGATING HARASSMENT OF GHANAIANS

AB161603 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, this morning called a news conference in Accra to disabuse the minds of Ghanaians that their nationals now resident in Nigeria are being unduly harassed at the instigation of that party.

The news conference, called at the Ambassador Hotel, was addressed by the national publicity secretary of the UPN, Alhaji (Ian Siddi).

In the July 24th edition of the Ghanaian TIMES this year, the paper carried a story with a banner headline that two Ghanaians had been hacked to death in Nigeria. The story, which was credited to the Ghana News Agency correspondent in Lagos, said the bodies of two Ghanaians had been recovered from a lake in Okologbo village near Ajakunle in the Apapa area south of Lagos. The two corpses, according to the correspondent, were among those of several Ghanaians thrown into the lake.

In an editorial accompanying this story, the Ghanaian TIMES said that that assault on Ghanaians, which it described as organized, happened in an area controlled by the Unity Party of Nigeria led by Chief Obafami Awolowo. The first reaction of the Unity Party of Nigeria to the TIMES editorial was to address a rejoinder to the editor of the paper in Accra. But upon second thought, Chief Awolowo's party thought it would be germane to their cause to send a delegation to Accra to call a news conference and put the party's case across to the Ghanaian population. The delegation, which traveled to Accra for this purpose, comprised Alhaji (Ian Siddi), national publicity secretary, and Mr (Olusanya), principal organizing secretary, all of the Unity Party of Nigeria.

Alhaji (Ian Siddi) stressed that it is absolutely false that the Unity Party of Nigeria ordered the killings of Ghanaian residents in Lagos. His contention was that for quite some time, the people of Lagos were at the mercy of thugs and other undesireable elements. When the police could not protect the people and their property they elected to form some sort of people's militia which [words indistinct] against the undesirables. Alhaji (Ian Siddi) said it could very well happen that in any clash between the people's militia and the undesirables, a Ghanaian or two may have been killed whenever the people's group overpowered the thugs. He said such a situation was blown up beyond proportions by the enemies of the Unity Papty of Nigeria to paint the picture that the UPN was after the blood of Ghanian residents in Nigeria.

Alhaji (Ian Siddi) called on Ghanaians to reject such (?contentions). He said that the UPN is more of Kwame N'krumah's group and that it would be the last party to do anything to alienate itself with Ghanaians. His assurance to Ghanaians, whether in Lagos or elsewhere in Nigeria, [words indistinct].

[Begin Alhaji (Ian Siddi) recording] [Words indistinct] all African brothers. And we, on our own part, will never support a policy that will make Africans second-rate citizens of any country in Africa simply because of the artificial barriers created by imperialist forces [words indistinct].

When Ghana was rich, her wealth was judiciously used for the nutrition of Africa. Many Africans, including Nigerians, were there then. It is our firm belief that any country in Africa that may have access to any [word indistinct] wealth must also emulate the example set by Kwame N'krumah's Ghana. It is not at all a sin for Ghana's citizens to live in Nigeria. This is our stand. Long live Ghana and Nigeria in friendship. [end recording]

BRIEFS

LIBERIAN COAST GUARD VESSELS--Three boats belonging to the Liberian National Coast Guard arrived in a port of Grand Bassa County yesterday from Sweden. A loan agreement between the Government of Liberia and Sweden was effected for the purchase of the three boats. [Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 16 Sep 80 AB]

MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT MACHEL ARRIVES IN BERLIN 17 SEP FOR VISIT

For reportage on the visit to the German Democratic Republic by Mozambique President Samora Machel see The German Democratic Republic section in the 17 September Eastern European DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

NAMIBIA

SECURITY FORCES KILL 85 SWAPO TERRORISTS

LD161552 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 80

[Text] Security forces in South-West Africa have killed 85 SWAPO terrorists in the past 6 days in a series of contacts in the northern operational areas. This brings the total number of terrorists killed this month to 114. The action since last Thursday [as heard] is regarded as the most successful single operation to date in South-West Africa. The terrorists were killed in contacts initiated after security forces had received information that 150 terrorists were about to cross the Angolan border into the territory.

ZAMBIA

PRESIDENT KAUNDA HOLDS NEW DELHI PRESS CONFERENCE

LD151920 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 80 CA

[Text] President Kaunda has said that the Soviet Union was not adverse to resolving the crisis in Afghanistan. He told a press conference in New Delhi that Zambian and Soviet officials had held discussions to try to untangle the Afghanistan problem. Dr Kaunda said a lot of work was being done behind the scenes to resolve the issue. He also said the nonaligned movement should work towards a political solution in Kampuchea. Dr Kaunda said he hoped to see positive results by the end of this year in the struggle of Namibia for its independence.

The president, on a nine-nation tour, said his visit to India was a success and [words indistinct]. He had held two rounds of talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during which they discussed ways to strengthen the 96-nation nonaligned movement and other world problems.

India and Zambia agreed to extend the building of trade and to cooperate on industrial ventures as well as in agricultural and rural development.

GOVERNMENT REPORTED TAKING OVER UNUSED LAND

LD161740 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Sep 80 CA

[Text] The Zambian Government is to repossess all idle land on farms and underdeveloped smallholdings in urban areas to prepare for the country's new food and housing program over a period of 10 years. The Zambian minister of lands and natural resources, Mr Mwananshiku, said in Lusaka that the seizure of idle land was in accordance with government policy. He said that the government had to increase food production and improve the acute housing shortage.

ZIMBABWE

CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL POLITICAL FACTIONS REPORTED

ZANU-ZAPU Clashes

LD161354 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Sep 80 CA

[Text] The worst tribal clashes since Zimbabwe became independent in April occurred at the weekend between supporters of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front Party and supporters of the ZANU-PF party headed by the prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe. Reports say that 4 people were killed, about 40 were injured and 6 houses were burned down. Today the Nkomo Patriotic Front presented a number of injured men, women and children at a news conference in Salisbury alleging that they had been the victims of a campaign of violence directed against the party by ZANU-PF supporters. The administrative secretary of the party's central province, Mr Dube, has alleged that Mr Mugabe's party has unleashed what is described as an unprecedented wave of violence against members of other parties, particularly against the Patriotic Front. All the incidents of assault, he said, have taken place in Seki township south of Salisbury where the third handgrenade incident in a week occurred last night. Police have been unable to confirm the murders but have confirmed that six houses were burned down.

ZIPRA Violence

LD161348 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 15 Sep 80 CA

[Text] The minister of information and tourism, Comrade Shamuyarira, today issued the following statement:

Above everything else the people of Zimbabwe want peace. The government is sparing no efforts to create [word indistinct] of peace. All evidence from independent observers show that it is the Patriotic Front that is trying to disturb the peace. Having lost dismally in the last general election that party is now trying to intimidate Zimbabweans to vote for it in the district council elections next month.

In the last 36 hours alone the press and the police have reported that ZIPRA [Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army] elements from Romeo assembly point were carried to Sinoia specifically to promote unrest and civil strife. They attacked our ZANU-PF office in the middle of Sinoia on Saturday. Then at about 9 pm on Sunday our offices in the Chinoyi township of Sinoia were sprayed with fire from an automatic weapon. No one was injured and no serious damage was done to the building. At 9 pm on Saturday night a man was abducted by six Patriotic Front men who stabbed him five times and tried to cut his throat. He says the six men who carried him away were making derogatory remarks about the prime minister and ZANU-PF. In the Salisbury area, evidence of dress, literature, remarks made, even the weapons used, shows that it is the ZIPRA elements that have unleashed violence on the innocent population. The Patriotic Front has never held a meeting in the Salisbury area to put its case to the general public, but resorts to injuring people peacefully drinking their beer or sleeping. We call upon Zimbabweans to dismiss the false allegations of ZAPU-PF and to be vigilant in tracking down all those elements trying to disturb the peace. Those responsible for the grenade attacks of last weekend must be exposed and brought to justice. We should unite to defend the peace and to uphold the people's wishes and their verdict. We must make it clear to all defeated political parties that violence against peaceful Zimbabweans will not be tolerated and that no one will come to power except through the ballot box. The police are requested to take stern action without favor or partisanship.

Calm Returning

LD161744 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 16 Sep 80 CA

[Text] A Zimbabwean police spokesman says calm has returned to Salisbury's black townships, the scene of several days of factional fighting. The violence stemmed from the continuing bitter rivalry between the political parties headed by the prime minister, Mr Mugabe, and his home affairs minister, Mr Nkomo. Since Thursday night 2 people have been killed and 46 injured, some critically, in a spate of assaults and handgrenade explosions.

MINISTER ACCUSES WHITE HOSPITAL STAFF OF NEGLECTING BLACKS

LD151318 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Sep 80 CA

[Text] The minister of health, Doctor Ushewokunze, says white staff at the Andrew Fleming Hospital, Salisbury, receive preferential treatment in selection and promotion. Addressing all available staff from the country's largest and most modern hospital yesterday afternoon, Comrade Ushewokunze said that some people are lagging behind the political sweeping the country. In denouncing the hospital's approach to black patients and to promotion for black staff, the minister said black patients are mistreated and even beaten in neglected and crowded wards. Comrade Ushewokunze told the meeting of more than 400 staff that the hospital appeared to be riddled by a lack of unity, trust and promotion opportunities for blacks. There is no proper spirit, he said. A mercenary angle has crept in and whites at the top of the hierarchy have used a divide and rule approach with little communication or dialogue to keep themselves at the top. The minister told the white staff most of you are not as yet mentally liberated, and announced statuses here must be sorted out. He said there are specific wards for specific racial groups and white staff tended to be in higher positions with less experience than their black counterparts. Comrade Ushewokunze told the meeting that all the senior staff are whites and some of them allowed discriminatory views to cloud their professional conduct. The minister said the Andrew Fleiming Hospital is an example of the colonial leftover of the inequitable distribution of health resources. Promising fast changes the minister told his audience that promotion applications will soon be sent through his ministry, nurses who abuse their positions will be dismissed without appeal, workers' committees will be set up and white nurses will be sent to work in junior capacity at the Harare Hospital.

BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICA TRADE UNION MOVEMENT--Johannesburg--A new trade union federation has been founded, with the stated goal of promoting black interests in the South African trade union movement. The new body, known as the Council of Unions of South Africa, claims a membership of about 30,000 workers, mainly on the reef. [Text] [Johannesburg International Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Sep 80 LD]

ZIMBABWE-GABON RELATIONS--Zimbabwe and Gabon have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with immediate effect. A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that as a result of the agreement the Zimbabwean Government has approved the nomination of Mr (Maurice Pallat) as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Gabon in Salisbury. [Text] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Sep 80 CA]